



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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### **18 VAC 150-20 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine Department of Health Professions December 2, 2002**

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The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 21 (02). Section 2.2-4007.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

### **Summary of the Proposed Regulation**

Pursuant to a legislative mandate, the Board of Veterinary Medicine (board) proposes to establish registration for voluntary veterinary practice by out-of-state licensees.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Chapter 740 of the 2002 Acts of the Assembly mandates that the board promulgate regulations to permit individuals licensed in veterinary medicine by another state to volunteer their veterinary services in Virginia without needing to obtain a Virginia license. The legislation sets very narrow criteria for who may qualify. Only individuals who are licensed in other states, but not in Virginia, and who volunteer "to provide free care in an underserved area of the Commonwealth under the auspices of a publicly supported, nonprofit organization with no paid employees that sponsors the provision of health care to populations of underserved people

throughout the world”<sup>1</sup> may register to perform volunteer veterinary work in the Commonwealth without a Virginia license.

The board’s proposed regulatory language essentially reiterates the requirements listed in Section § 54.1-3801 of the Code of Virginia with details on how the applicant is to present their qualifications, as well as establishes a \$10 processing fee for the Department of Health Professions’ administrative costs.

The requirement that not only must the volunteer not receive remuneration, but that the nonprofit organization have no paid employees is very restrictive. Many, if not most, charitable organizations would not meet this criterion. For example, the Red Cross has paid employees and an out-of-state practitioner could not volunteer to provide veterinary services through the Red Cross in Virginia under this provision. The requirement that the nonprofit organization sponsors the provision of health care to populations of underserved people throughout the world is vague and potentially extremely restrictive. It seems to exclude all non-international organizations. Read literally, it also seems to exclude international organizations that do not provide health care to populations of underserved people in all areas of the world. The proposed regulatory language was adopted as emergency regulations on July 19, 2002. As of late November 2002, no one has applied to the board for voluntary practice in Virginia. Given how highly restrictive the qualification criteria are, it is unlikely that more than a very small number of individuals, if any at all, will apply to the board for voluntary practice registration in the future. Since registration for volunteer services is expected to happen very infrequently, the proposed regulatory amendment will have little effect.

## **Businesses and Entities Affected**

The proposed amendments will likely affect very few Virginians. Given the highly restrictive nature of the registration qualifications, very few out-of-state veterinarians are expected to register and provide services for underserved Virginians.

## **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed regulations, if used at all, will mostly affect rural areas of the Commonwealth, particularly in southwestern Virginia.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Section § 54.1-3801 of the Code of Virginia

## **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposed amendments will not significantly affect employment levels.

## **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposed amendments will not have a large impact on the use and value of private property.